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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Sixty-third session
Geneva
13-31 July 1998

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The sixty-third session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 13 to 31 July 1998. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 13 July 1998 at 10.30 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the sixty-third session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 5 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixty-third session. In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, representatives of States parties may be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

5. At its sixty-second session, the Committee decided that a working group, established under rules 62 and 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its sixty-third session. The working group is scheduled to meet at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 6 to 10 July 1998.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organizational and other matters.

3. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

4. Consideration of reports submitted by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

5. General comments of the Committee.

6. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

7. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

8. Future meetings of the Committee.

9. Annual report of the Committee to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council under article 45 of the Covenant and article 6 of the Optional Protocol.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, during a session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

2. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the session. In this connection, it may be noted that the Committee decided at its sixty-second session that the pre-sessional working group would deal not only with communications under the Optional Protocol, but would also address issues under article 40 of the Covenant, prepare concise lists of issues concerning reports scheduled for consideration at the sixty-third session, consider any draft general comment that may be put before it, and continue its discussion of methods of work with a view to adopting new guidelines on the examination of State party reports, consider ways of overcoming the backlog of State party reports and of communications awaiting examination, and explore ways of obtaining strengthened secretariat support, including through the adoption of a plan of action. Moreover, the Committee will continue its discussion of issues addressed to it by the Commission on Human Rights, including the question of minimum humanitarian standards, pursuant to resolution 1998/20 of the Commission on Human Rights, and the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, under Commission resolution 1998/34. The Committee will also examine the International Law Commission's Preliminary Conclusions on reservations to normative multilateral treaties excluding human rights treaties.

3. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant

Reports received

In addition to the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-third session (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 8 below), the Secretary-General has received the reports of the following States parties:

Initial reports

State party	Symbol	Date due	Date received
Lesotho	CCPR/C/81/Add.14	1993	8 April 1998
Cambodia	CCPR/C/81/Add.12	1993	14 November 1997
Armenia	CCPR/C/92/Add.2	1994	14 July 1997
Bosnia and Herzegovina	CCPR/C/81/Add.11	1996	11 March 1997
Kyrgyzstan	CCPR/C/113/Add.1	1996	5 May 1998
Kuwait	CCPR/C/120/Add.1	1997	18 May 1998

Second periodic reports

State party	Symbol	Date due	Date received
Afghanistan	CCPR/C/57/Add.5	1989	25 October 1991
Congo			
Republic of Korea	CCPR/C/63/Add.5	1990	9 July 1996
	CCPR/C/114/Add.1	1996	2 October 1997
Gabon	CCPR/C/128/Add.1	1998	6 February 1998

Third periodic reports

Iceland	CCPR/C/94/Add.2	1994	23 March 1995
Belgium	CCPR/C/94/Add.3	1994	21 August 1996
Cameroon	CCPR/C/102/Add.2	1995	6 March 1997
Austria	CCPR/C/83/Add.3	1993	22 April 1997

Fourth periodic reports

Romania	CCPR/C/95/Add.7	1994	26 April 1996
Poland	CCPR/C/95/Add.8	1994	7 May 1996
Italy	CCPR/C/103/Add.4	1995	30 November 1996
Morocco	CCPR/C/115/Add.1	1996	27 January 1997
Norway	CCPR/C/115/Add.1	1996	4 February 1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man)	CCPR/C/95/Add.10	1994	12 February 1997
Canada	CCPR/C/103/Add.5	1995	4 April 1997
Japan	CCPR/C/115/Add.3	1996	16 June 1997
Mexico	CCPR/C/123/Add.1	1997	30 June 1997
Chile	CCPR/C/95/Add.11	1994	6 October 1997
Costa Rica	CCPR/C/103/Add.6	1995	6 January 1998
Mongolia	CCPR/C/103/Add.7	1995	20 April 1998

B. Reports due

The situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant is as follows:

States parties whose reports were due as of 15 May 1998

INITIAL REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Equatorial Guinea	24 December 1988	16
Somalia	23 April 1991	9
Croatia	7 October 1992	7
Grenada	5 December 1992	6
Thailand	28 January 1998	

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Albania	3 January 1993	8
Angola 1/	9 April 1993	5
Benin	11 June 1993	6
Côte d'Ivoire	25 June 1993	4
Seychelles	4 August 1993	6
Czech Republic	31 December 1993	4
Republic of Moldova	25 April 1994	5
Ethiopia	10 September 1994	5
Dominica	16 September 1994	5
Mozambique	20 October 1994	4
Cape Verde	5 November 1994	3
Malawi	21 March 1995	4
Namibia	27 February 1996	2
Chad	8 September 1996	2
Uganda	20 September 1996	2
Belize	9 September 1997	1
SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
Syrian Arab Republic	18 August 1984	26
Gambia	21 June 1985	24
Suriname	2 August 1985	23
Kenya	11 April 1986	22
Mali	11 April 1986	22
Guyana	10 April 1987	20
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	13 December 1987	18
Central African Republic	9 April 1989	15
Viet Nam	31 July 1991	11
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	31 October 1991	11
San Marino	17 January 1992	10
Philippines	22 January 1993	8
Equatorial Guinea 2/	24 December 1993	6
Niger	31 March 1994	6
Ireland	7 March 1996	2
Somalia 2/	23 April 1996	2
Burundi	8 August 1996	2
Haiti	5 May 1997	1
Slovenia	24 June 1997	1
Zimbabwe	12 August 1997	1

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Nepal	13 August 1997	1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6 September 1997	1
Croatia	7 October 1997	1
Albania	3 January 1998	1
Estonia	20 January 1998	1
Angola	9 April 1998	
Brazil	23 April 1998	
	THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS	
Syrian Arab Republic 3/	18 August 1989	15
Trinidad and Tobago	20 March 1990	14
Gambia 3/	21 June 1990	13
Suriname 3/	2 August 1990	13
Barbados	11 April 1991	12
Kenya 3/	11 April 1991	12
Mali 3/	11 April 1991	12
Nicaragua	11 June 1991	11
Zaire (Democratic Rep. of the Congo)	31 July 1991	11
Jamaica	1 August 1991	10
Australia	12 November 1991	10
Panama	31 March 1992	10
Guyana 3/	10 April 1992	10
Rwanda 1/	10 April 1992	4
Madagascar	31 July 1992	9
Central African Republic 3/	7 August 1992	9
Democratic People's Republic of Korea 3/	13 October 1992	8
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 3/	8 February 1993	8
Viet Nam 3/	23 December 1993	2
Venezuela	31 December 1993	6
Afghanistan	23 April 1994	-
Luxembourg	17 November 1994	4
Bulgaria	31 December 1994	4
Egypt	31 December 1994	4
Guinea	31 December 1994	4
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	31 December 1994	4
Congo	4 January 1995	3
El Salvador	31 December 1995	2
San Marino 3/	17 January 1997	2
Niger	6 June 1997	1
Argentina	7 November 1997	1

FOURTH PERIODIC REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Democratic Republic of the Congo	30 January 1993	
Panama 4/	6 June 1993	7
Madagascar 4/	3 August 1993	7
Yugoslavia	3 August 1993	7
Dominican Republic	3 April 1994	6
Syrian Arab Republic 3/4/	18 August 1994	5
Trinidad and Tobago 4/	20 March 1995	4
Mongolia	4 April 1995	4
Gambia 3/4/	21 June 1995	3
Hungary	2 August 1995	3
Suriname 3/4/	2 August 1995	3
Venezuela	1 November 1995	3
El Salvador	28 February 1996	3
Barbados	11 April 1996	2
Kenya	11 April 1996	2
Mali	11 April 1996	2
United Republic of Tanzania	11 April 1996	1
Nicaragua 3/	11 June 1996	2
Portugal	1 August 1996	2
Sri Lanka	10 September 1996	2
Jordan	22 January 1997	2
Guyana 3/4/	10 April 1997	1
Cental African Republic	7 August 1997	1
Iceland	30 October 1997	1

FIFTH PERIODIC REPORTS

Democratic Republic of the Congo	30 January 1997
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	4 February 1998
Tunisia	4 February 1998
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	21 March 1998
Lebanon	21 March 1998
Uruguay	21 March 1998
Panama	6 June 1998

4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixty-third session, prepared in consultation with the Chairperson and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Ecuador CCPR/C/84/Add.6	Fourth	Tuesday	14 July
Israel CCPR/C/81/Add.13	Initial	Wednesday	15 July
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya CCPR/C/102/Add.1	Third	Friday	17 July
Algeria CCPR/C/101/Add.1	Second	Monday	20 July
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia CCPR/C/74/Add.4	Initial	Wednesday	22 July
United Republic of Tanzania CCPR/C/83/Add.2	Third	Friday	24 July

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-third session.

5. General comments of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will consider any draft general comment that may be put before it by its pre-sessional working group on article 40.

6. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

One hundred and sixty-six communications are pending before the Committee from earlier sessions. Forty of these communications have already been declared admissible and are pending for a decision on the merits, i.e. Views under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol. Pursuant to the Committee's new rules of procedure allowing the joint examination of admissibility and merits in appropriate cases, the Committee's examination of the remaining 126 communications may result in the adoption of Views, or in decisions declaring the communications admissible or inadmissible. In

addition, the Committee will have before it summaries of a number of recently registered communications and summaries of new communications registered after its last session, together with an indication of any action which may have been taken by the Special Rapporteur on new communications.

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.

7. Follow-up on Views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

Under this item, the Committee will assess the status of follow-up activities under the Optional Protocol and examine periodic reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur for the follow-up on Views.

8. Future meetings of the Committee

The Committee may wish to take decisions under this item on the schedule of its meetings to be held in 1999.

9. Annual report of the Committee to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council under article 45 of the Covenant and article 6 of the Optional Protocol

Under article 45 of the Covenant, the Committee is to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, an annual report on its activities. Article 6 of the Optional Protocol provides that the Committee shall include in its annual report a summary of its Activities under the Protocol.

Notes

1/ The Committee has requested the Government to submit a special report for discussion by the Committee.

2/ The State party's initial report has not yet been received.

3/ The State Party's second periodic report has not yet been received.

4/ The State party's third periodic report has not yet been received.